

2013 Preservation Award for Outstanding Contribution to Historic Preservation to

John Bohlinger

By Governor Steve Bullock

2013 Preservation Award Ceremony

Myrna Loy Center, Helena

January 18, 2013

The 2013 award for Outstanding Contribution to Historic Preservation goes to the Honorable John Bohlinger.

Throughout his eight years serving as Lieutenant Governor of Montana, John Bohlinger has enthusiastically embraced his role as the face of historic preservation in the Governor's office. During this time, from 2005 to 2012, he willingly and graciously participated in the biennial Preservation Awards Ceremony four times. At each ceremony, he delivered the keynote opening address, handed out the National Register certificates, and presented the special Governor's Award to recipients. His presence here provided official state recognition at the highest level of the importance of preserving Montana's history and prehistory.

In 2005, Governor Schweitzer also signed Executive Order 18 creating a seven-member Historic and Cultural Advisory Council. The Council was charged with studying the benefits of historic preservation—and there are many. The new Council was also asked to formulate recommendations to the Governor and the 2007 Legislature concerning state policies on the preservation of publically owned historic buildings. The Council further identified opportunities for communities to use historic preservation as an economic development tool. And guess who chaired the Council? The Honorable John Bohlinger of course!

In its 2006 report, the Governor's Historic and Cultural Advisory Council identified several key findings regarding historic preservation in Montana. These findings include:

- That the State of Montana values its heritage resources;
- That preservation of these public assets requires public investment;
- That historic preservation, state stewardship and heritage activities should reflect the best interests of Montana and its communities; and
- That the best course of action is preservation.

Throughout his tenure as a public servant in the House, the Senate and the Governor's office, John Bohlinger has carried the historic preservation banner. He has always been a strong advocate for Montana history, historic preservation and the work of the Montana Historical Society. Perhaps his care and love for Montana history traces back at least to his association

with the historic Bohlinger family-owned Aileen's Clothing Store in downtown Billings, which was named after his mother. In any event, we have all benefited from his interest and commitment.

Please join me in thanking **John Bohlinger** with a 2013 Montana Historic Preservation Award for Outstanding Contribution to Historic Preservation in the State of Montana.